

Gregory B. Nokes
Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Opening Statement

It is my privilege to be here today as Governor Malloy's nominee for reappointment to the Advisory Board of the Workers' Compensation Commission.

I am currently Vice President of Human Resources for Middlesex Health System, a position I have held since July of 2007. Prior to that I spent over 25 years in private law practice here in Connecticut. Throughout those years in private law practice, I represented employers in virtually all industries relative to the full spectrum of issues that can arise out of the workplace, including matters relative to workplace safety and health.

Within Middlesex Health System we employ nearly 3,000 persons, all within Connecticut. We operate 24 hours per day, every day, at our acute care hospital and at two separate 24 hour emergency centers, and we have significant outpatient surgery facilities, a large Homecare department, and an Emergency Medical Service. The employment environments in which we operate, the ranges of the occupations of our employees, and the safety issues that confront us all are extremely broad. And because many aspects of our employees' duties directly impact patient safety as well as worker safety, safety is doubly important to our success.

My background has given me a very broad perspective as to the importance of workplace safety and preventive practices, as well as the many difficulties and challenges to effective worker rehabilitation. In addition to my responsibilities in Human Resources, our Employee Health and our Occupational Medicine Departments report to me. Both of these departments work closely with our Physical and Occupational therapy staff in treating persons injured either on or off the job.

Over the past three years, as a member of the Advisory Board, I have gained a greater understanding of the operations of the Workers Compensation Commission and a greater appreciation for both the challenges that the Commission faces and the dedication and professionalism of those who deal with these challenges on a day to day basis. I have enjoyed the opportunity to provide input as to policies and procedures of the Commission, and would appreciate the opportunity to continue to do so.

Thank you for your attention today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have for me.